

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 871

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Tallu Schuyler Quinn of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Tallu Schuyler Quinn; and

WHEREAS, a Nashville native, Tallu Quinn founded the Nashville Food Project in 2011 at the age of thirty-one, and, with fierce hope and an expansive vision, she shepherded the organization through an incredible evolution over the course of more than a decade; and

WHEREAS, the Nashville Food Project is a nonprofit that grows, cooks, and shares nutritious food with the goal of alleviating hunger in Middle Tennessee; the organization, which was started out of a modest church kitchen with a handful of volunteers delivering sandwiches to homeless camps, grew into a multi-pronged, interrelated initiative for food justice under Ms. Quinn's guiding hand; and

WHEREAS, today, the Nashville Food Project's gardens produce more than 25,000 servings of organic fruits and vegetables annually, and the organization partners with more than thirty other nonprofits to pair healthy meals with their services; and

WHEREAS, along with her boundless energy and open, accepting love for humanity, Tallu Quinn embodied the values of the Food Project: hospitality, stewardship, justice, interdependence, learning, and transformation; she championed and shared the joy, hope, and love of food justice work; and

WHEREAS, as was said of her in *The New York Times*, Ms. Quinn, "saw a desperate need in her city," and, "Step by step, enlisting thousands of others in a shared mission, she found a vast array of ways to meet it"; and

WHEREAS, Tallu Schuyler Quinn was raised in an artistic home by her songwriter father, Thom Schuyler, and artist mother, Sarah Schuyler; she attended Harpeth Hall School and later earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Papermaking and Bookbinding from the Appalachian Center for Craft in Smithville; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Quinn received her Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary at Columbia University in New York, where she focused her studies on art, ritual, and liberation theology; prior to seminary, she had worked in an urban grocery store in Boston, Massachusetts, an experience that opened her eyes to food injustices and food waste, thus igniting a passion for what would become her life's work; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from seminary, she moved to Nicaragua, where she lived and worked with poor farmers on food security projects, using methods of agriculture that build communities and protect the land; when she eventually returned to Nashville, she applied the skills and knowledge acquired in Nicaragua as she helped run the local arm of Austin-based Mobile Loaves & Fishes; and

WHEREAS, these experiences laid the foundation for the Nashville Food Project, one of Nashville's most important service organizations and a lasting testament to the compassion and fierce, devoted advocacy of its beloved founder; and

WHEREAS, in July 2020, Ms. Quinn was diagnosed with glioblastoma, an aggressive brain cancer; she subsequently penned several essays on what it meant to live with a terminal diagnosis, and the collection, titled *What We Wish Were True: Reflections on Nurturing Life and Facing Death*, will be released by Convergent Books, a division of Penguin Random House, in April 2022; and

WHEREAS, Tallu Quinn always held close her passions for cooking for her family and loved ones, creating and studying papermaking and bookbinding, and enjoying music, particularly the Indigo Girls, whom she had seen live more than forty times; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Quinn was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, she is survived by her husband, Robbie Quinn, and their children, Lulah and Thomas Quinn; her parents, Thom and Sarah Schuyler; and her brothers, Roy Schuyler and Luke Schuyler; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Quinn believed that nourishing food is not simply a basic human need but a human right, and that it can not only foster good health, but can also imbue a sense of belonging and purpose; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Tallu Schuyler Quinn, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we offer our condolences to the family and many friends of Ms. Quinn.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.